



Visit us Online at www.fairmountparkna.org

ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

NEXT EVENT—BLOCK PARTY

You probably all know by now that FPNA is sponsoring it's block party on August 7th, to coincide with National Neighbor Night Out, so no need to fill up space here. Only that last year's event was the best ever, and this one will be also. Free chicken, and it's good. Bring some sides. Enjoy folk music by Toni Allen and her singing partner. What's not to like? Don't miss it.

POLLINATION GARDEN NEWS

The latest addition to our pollination garden is the Mason Bee house donated by Greg and Vicki Myers, and installed by landowner John Huggins (See Photo on Page 3). The bees won't show up until next spring and then we'll know whether or not they like the nursery we've provided them. By then, we may have even more bee facilities in our garden and elsewhere. Always trying to be neighborhood friendly, even to the insects when they're beneficial. The members of the Omaha Men's Garden Club will be visiting our garden in a few days and we are proud to say that there are lots of flowers for them to see and fewer weeds. In fact, the garden looks better than we had expected in its second year. Let's hope they agree, as they have given us a total of \$200 so far for this project. See photo of bee house in this issue. By the way, another wildflower garden has been started in the side yard at 134 Park. Time will tell how well this one will grow, but we're watching.

JULY YARD OF THE MONTH AWARD

This month's YOM award went to the yard at 420 Glen, owned by Cindi Ostronic and John Kmiecik. You will want to see this one in person to appreciate all the details. A unique feature is the river rock "stream" at the side of the yard. Maybe its function was to improve drainage, but to our eyes it stands out as a one-of-kind addition to an otherwise stellar landscape, thanks to the two talented designers who live there.

MONSTER TREES

That's a good description of some of our trees after Asplundh Tree Service, hired by Mid-American Energy every two years, came through with their tree trimming truck. Their purpose was to trim away excess tree growth around the utility lines, and we all agree that this is necessary to prevent power outages when tree branches interfere with the power lines, and the danger from electrocution caused by falling lines. But, really, some of the trimmed trees look so bad they ought to be removed. Asplundh does not have the mandate to take down whole trees, only interfering branches. So, is there

The Creation of the FPNA Banners

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Glen Avenue

OR HOW WE DODGED A BULLET AND CONQUERED THE WIND

Call them banners or flags, either way we're talking about the same thing—our beautiful banners attached to the fifteen equally beautiful identification poles strategically placed throughout the neighborhood. The poles themselves would make a good story but this time it is the checkered tale of our banners and how they came to be. All volunteers played important roles in the banner saga.

Kyle Muschall created the original design in 2013 and brought it to the Board for approval. Intense discussion ensued, but eventually a final design emerged that contained everything we all wanted. Kyle made the few design changes without complaint. Due to bureaucratic red tape involving money, the grant requests, written by Sharon Babbitt, were done in two stages. All subsequent trouble is due to this two-stage approach.

Stage One went off without a hitch. Dave Huggins, Mike Ring and Kyle hung whatever number of banners we got with the first grant. Everyone stood back and admired it all and patted ourselves on our collective backs. All the banners fit perfectly on the mounting arms on our poles.

Stage Two came the next year. The banners looked the same but when we started to hang them they were, gulp, *too short*. Because they were made of heavy duty Sunbrella fabric, they would not stretch without breaking the pole arms. What to do? Send them back or try to lengthen them? Dave turned to Sharon and sweetly said, don't you have a sewing machine that can sew through leather? Answer; yes, but not to be confused with an industrial machine (keep that in mind).

She sewed them and up they went onto the poles and fit pretty well. Fast-forward a year or two, until one day up comes a heavy wind. The stress on those stitches was too much for at least one banner, and down it blew from the pole at 199 Glen. It was a sorry sight, hanging there by a literal thread, so Greg Myers took it the rest of the way down. Sharon figured she could stitch it up again, but this time her

sewing machine rebelled and quit working altogether, off to Richardson's Sewing for proper stitching. By now that unfortunate banner had several rows of multiple stitching and got re-stitched on the wrong row—still too short. That banner is now toast and the new owners, Morgan and Jennifer Hanson, at 199 Glen are wondering....

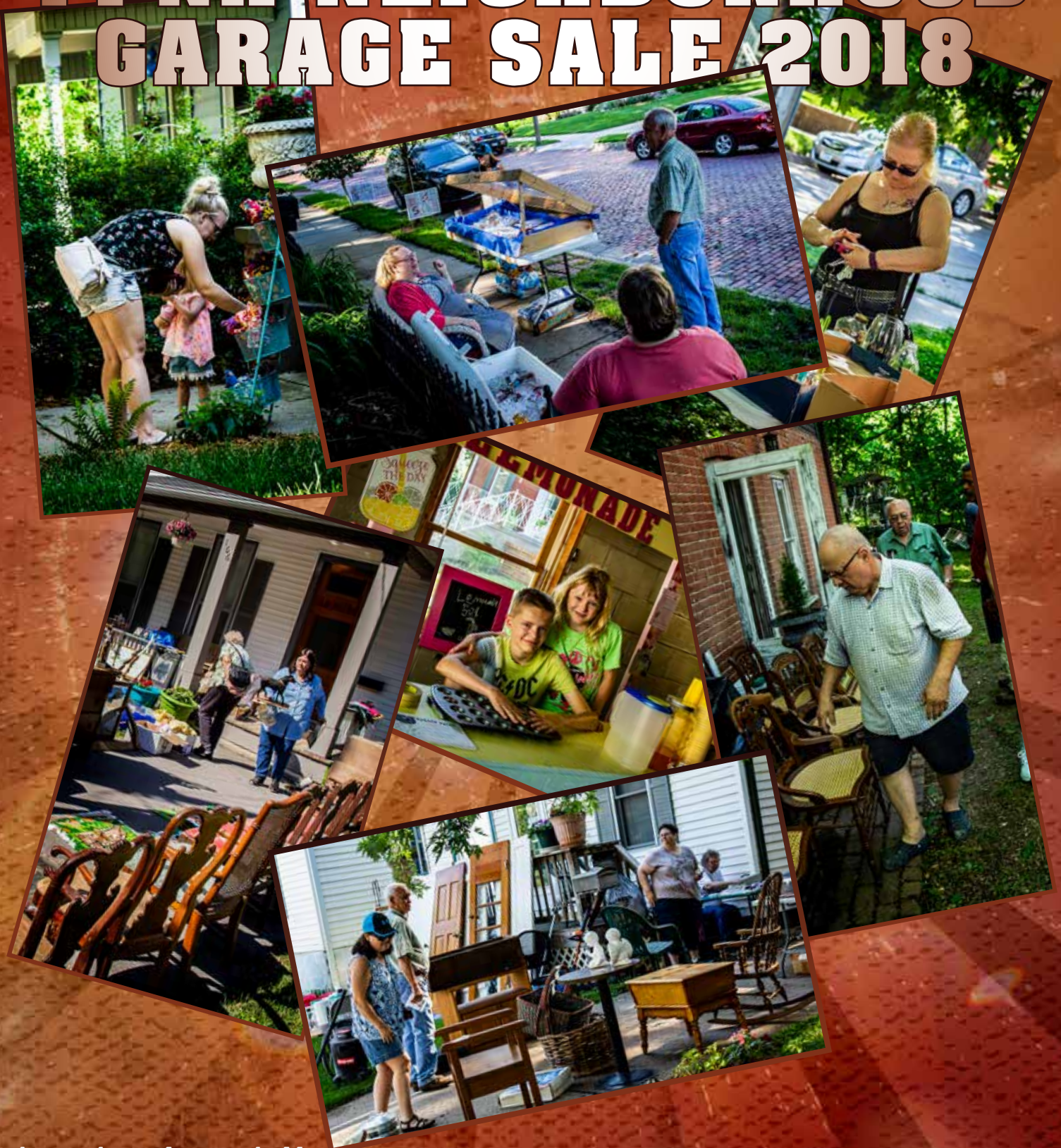
Fortunately for FPNA, we did have two spare banners so they were both carefully measured and prepared for alteration. The phrase "carefully measured" must mean something different to the person doing the measuring (name omitted) because the two spare banners were now *too long*. Kyle tried hanging one anyway and within a day it also blew down and was removed, again, new owners shaking heads in disbelief. Another trip to Richardson's was contemplated but Dave said, wait a minute, let me think on this. Suddenly, the banner appeared on the pole again, good as new. When asked what happened, Dave at first tried to say it was magic but finally revealed his secret—pipe insulation. What?? Yes, carefully wedged inside the top pole arm is a tube of pipe insulation. That banner now fits snugly on its mount and you can't see the insulation from street level. Inspired!

Morgan and Jennifer at 199 Glen were puzzled by the constantly disappearing banner and probably wondered what kind of neighborhood they moved into. The answer is that it is a place where we never give up until the job is done. (See Photo on page 3). Oh, and about that bullet hole. Yes, the banner on Test Street was used for target practice but because of the strength of Sunbrella, the bullet hole has not frayed and that banner is staying put. Somewhere in the neighborhood there exist other banners that have been stitched up on that home sewing machine, but they haven't come apart to date so they are also staying put.

And that sewing machine? It got repaired and now works like new, just so long as it isn't asked to do the impossible ever again.

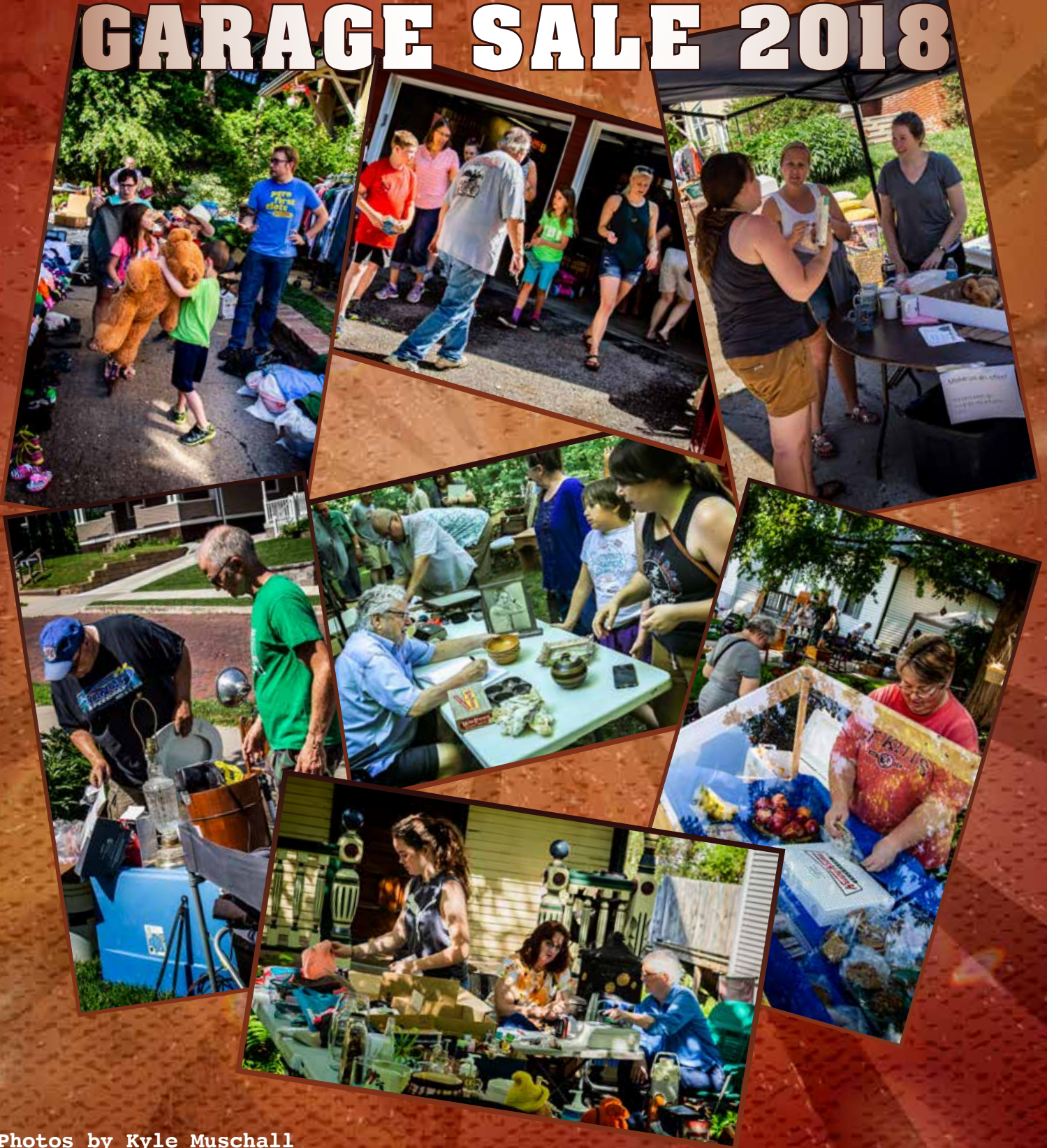


FPNA NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE 2018



Photos by Kyle Muschall

FPNA NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE 2018



Photos by Kyle Muschall

ALL THE NEWS THATS FIT TO PRINT

By Sharon Babbitt

200 Park Avenue

anything we can do?

Nate Watson, Council Bluffs City Councilman and neighborhood resident, was recently interviewed on the subject, and his answers may not be what we want to hear. First, he says that this problem does not involve the City, but only the utility company. Second, their purpose in trimming the trees is legitimate. Third, he says our only option is to trim back the trees ourselves before the problem has to be addressed by Mid American Energy. If homeowners are willing to take this step they will have control over the final results. Not everybody has the ability or equipment to take on this job, but if we were concerned enough to join together to make it a joint effort, this might provide a solution to the problem. The alternative is tree butchering every two years. In the short run, if your tree is so bad it should be removed; the City is responsible for doing so if the tree is growing in the parking strip (owned by the City). They will do this at no charge to the homeowner but it may take months or longer for them to do so.

They will also grind out the stumps and the only trace of your tree will be the mushrooms that will grow from the rotting underground stumps—expect to see them every moist spring for a long time.

One of our goals as a neighborhood is to restore not only our architecture but also our landscape. Forget planting trees in our parking strips unless they are small ornamentals. For real shade, consider planting larger trees in those front yards, which have the space for it. In a few years these trees would provide shade for our homes and ambiance for our neighborhood. We will never again see Dutch Elms so large that their branches meet each other from one side of the street to another, but we can do the next best thing.

WE PAID OUR DUES

Our annual dues remain \$20/year for single or family membership. We are pleased to list the names of folks who have brought their dues up to date, and those who have recently chosen to join for the first time.

Tony and Cindy Lainson

Kelli Deere

Anthony and Cherri Luna (new members)

Morgan and Jennifer Hanson (new members)

July Yard of the Month



420 Glen Avenue Cindy Ostronic John Kmiecik

Photo by Kyle Muschall



FAIRMOUNT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE BLOCK PARTY

TUESDAY AUGUST 7th 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Come join your neighbors for National Neighbors Night Out
Tuesday August 7th from 5:30-8:30pm
On High School Avenue between Glen and Park
We will supply fried chicken and plenty of water
You bring the sides and desserts**

**There will be music by Toni Allen and games for all ages
Sign up for prizes to be given away by the 712 Initiative
This is a great time to get to know your neighbors**

**If you have a hidden talent like juggling, singing or playing an
instrument please come and share. If you have a business you want
to promote please come set up a table.**

**Please contact Shari Hansen at sis2100@cox.net if you want to
participate in the entertainment or set up a table.**

FAIRMOUNT PARK MEETING MINUTES

By Marilyn Abbott

314 Park Avenue

Saturday, June 30, 2018

The meeting was held at Kelli Deere's lovely home at 156 Park Avenue. Approximately 20 members attended with food and drinks served. Socializing took place from 6:00-6:25 with the meeting beginning at 6:25 P.M. Members stayed after the meeting to visit and see the new remodeling done at Kelli's home. Her backyard and newly remodeled kitchen are especially beautiful.

President Michelle called the meeting to order.

Dave gave the treasurer's report with \$1854.80 as a beginning balance. There was a \$64.00 deposit and \$277.32 spent for flowers, mulch, and fabric leaving \$1641.48 as an ending balance.

Michelle reviewed and updated members on projects we've done so far in 2018:

-Neighborhood clean up with Clean Sweep in May with 6 bags filled with trash.

-We raised \$196.22 through Omaha Gives. People can still donate via the website all year and designate our neighborhood association as the intended recipient.

-June 9th garage sale — traffic seemed lighter than usual. We made \$60 on bake sale

-YOM —114 Park Ave Lainsons (May); — 420 Glen Ave (June)

-June 5th—Michelle attended workshop on marketing ourselves. We'd like to consider selling t-shirts for our association; Other fundraisers...Pizza Ranch, Freddy's, Panera?

-Upcoming Event August 7th Block Party between Glen and Park on High School Ave. Everyone brings side dish. Association will provide chicken, table wear and drinks.

712 Initiative will sponsor trailer with needed items... barricades included. Entertainment—Toni and friend. Asking for more entertainment

Other Items of Note:

-Karen and Greg Myers donated bee house for the pollination garden. Thank you so much!

-Bat houses — submitted \$1000 grant proposal to Black Hills Energy

-ConAgra—added 17 new trees recently

-DEA “drug bust” 167 Glen — no drugs; no arrests

-Football league charging admission -- cannot do that. Can reserve park through city. Shouldn't they notify neighborhood if park is closed?

-The gun shop at the bottom of Glen is closing due to the owner retiring.

-Dream Playground being torn down and a new one is going up. We have purchased a picket from our neighborhood association to help pay for the new park.

-434 Glen abandoned house

-Information shared about lots for sale on Park by the city

-The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M. with members socializing afterward.



THE Fairmount Press

The Newspaper of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

www.fairmountparkna.org

Michelle Mutchler-Burns	President
Ted Duitsman	Vice President
Marilyn Abbott	Secretary
Dave Huggins	Treasurer
Kyle Muschall	Publisher
Sharon Babbitt	Editor
Michelle Mutchler-Burns	Board Member (2020)
Ted Duitsman	Board Member (2019)
Dave Huggins	Board Member (2020)
Marilyn Abbott	Board Member (2020)
Greg Myers	Board Member (2019)
Shari Hansen	Board Member (2019)
Toni Allen	Board Member (2020)

Have an Opinion? Please Share!

We welcome any submission from a member that constructively furthers a topic of current public interest. Of course, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association or its membership. Please Contact the Editor:

Kyle Muschall : kmuschall@cox.net

COPIES PROVIDED BY

THE 7th 2nd INITIATIVE



Yes! I want to be an active member of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association. Please find enclosed a check for annual dues in the amount of \$20.00 per household.

My Name and Spouse's/Significant Other's Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numer: _____ Email Address: _____

Remit to: Dave Huggins, Treasurer, 150 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503



Yes! I want to purchase a Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association banner.

Please find enclosed a check for the Banner fee of \$12.00

(Or additional amounts of _____ for additional banners totaling _____.)

You must be a paid member to purchase a banner

My Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numer: _____ Email Address: _____

Remit to: Kyle Muschall, President, 332 Glen Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503 or

Dave Huggins, Treasurer, 150 Park Avenue Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503